

# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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## The President's Desk

IN how many homes, dear mothers, have you planned a Christmas tree for the family? Nothing else can take the place of the Christmas tree—that tree of beauty, of wonder, joy and delight. Never can the writer forget the joy of going through the country woods to find a tree that was perfect in form and size, which later was covered with the wondrous fruit of Santa Claus, around which with eager joy assembled father, mother, brothers and sisters. To be sure, the stockings hung by the chimney-side were not forgotten, but the search among the branches for hidden treasures, and the beauty of that tree after only the bright decorations were left was a continuing delight for days after Christmas. Children are so imaginative that the material value of things in no way measures value to them. Costly gifts are often less appreciated than the simplest thing that takes their fancy.

Well do I remember asking a small boy who had many expensive gifts which of all he liked best. It was a toy watch that cost a dime.

Small trees are possible in the smallest homes, and the decorations need not be expensive. Bright balls hung singly give the effect of real fruit. Candles should never be used because the danger is too great to justify the risk. The tree itself should not be so covered with decorations as to hide its own beauty. It is a bit of God's beautiful outdoors brought in to brighten the wintry day, and without a single ornament is a decoration.

Christmas joy comes to parents by making the day bright and happy for the children, and gifts without the Christmas tree are never the same. It is especially the children's day, but their happiness can never be quite complete unless they have been given the opportunity to make some other children's day brighter. A story every parent should read is "The Bird's Christmas Carol," by Kate Douglas Wiggin. In some form or other the idea of sharing one's happiness with those who have less can be carried out by every family.

THIS Christmas tide in other lands finds broken homes, widowed mothers, fatherless children. Poverty, sorrow and desolation will mark this Christmas day in countless homes. One thousand babies of Belgium are sheltered in Paris churches, babies too young to tell their names, babies lost or orphaned, knowing not who they are, possessing only the scanty clothing they wore. War has brought irreparable loss to every nation engaged in this terrible strife.

Let every American mother remember the mothers with aching hearts on this Christmas day by mailing parcel post at least one article of clothing for woman or child to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations to be sent as a Christmas offering to those who are in the shadow of bereavement and distress. Let every mother happy with home and husband and children pray that God may so guide us that war with all its terrible

consequences may not continue to ruin men, break the hearts of women, ruin the lives of children, and place the standards of morality at the lowest ebb.

To steal a man's purse is a crime in every nation. To kill a man is murder. These laws apply to individuals. When it comes to nations, is it stealing

**What is War?** to take possession of another nation? Is it murder to kill millions of men?

Can a nation do what the laws of God and man prohibit? Is it not time that there should be laws which nations must respect, or how can citizens respect nations which make one law for the individual, yet hold it right to violate that principle as a nation? These are some of the questions thoughtful people are asking themselves. The answer must be that God's laws apply to nations as well as individuals, that love of rule, and love of possession are traits contrary to Love of God and Love of the Neighbor, whether belonging to individuals or nations.

Treaties count for nothing with individuals or nations who place no value on promises. The women of the whole world owe it to themselves and to humanity to study the causes of war, and unitedly, purposefully and intelligently inculcate principles that will eventually bring about more effective Christian methods of adjusting difference.

As bearers, rearers and nurturers of the human race, the standards of the race are to a large degree determined by what all mothers stand for and teach. No mother believing in peace will give her boys toy soldiers, toy cannons, toy pistols or any of the paraphernalia of war. No mother loving peace will omit to show what war really is—a reversion to savagery, with free rein to destroy and kill, to grasp whatever one can, regardless of ownership. Thou shalt not kill; Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not commit adultery; Thou shalt not covet; Thou shalt love thy God and thy neighbor as thyself; Do unto others as ye would that men should do unto you—all of these Divine commands are violated in war. Therefore war is savagery, and without excuse for nations who dare call on God for aid in their butchery of His children.

How can thinking men consistently call on God to help them transgress His laws of life?

THE educational opportunities for parents as opened by the Mothers' Congress have been greatly promoted by the work of Mrs. Robert H. Tate during October. She visited 19 cities, held 21 general meetings, 12 conferences of workers, 1 meeting for Y. W. C. A., addressed three high school student bodies and one normal student body. In all about 3,500 people were reached. Fifteen circles were organized. Committees consisting of school principals and mothers were appointed to organize parents in 46 schools. This organization work has been done preliminary to the formation of state branches in May. The National Officers will arrange state conferences then in North and South Dakota and Montana. Speakers of national reputation will be on the programs. Everywhere the work was promoted by the interest of the school superintendents.

IN association with the Department of Superintendents of the National Conference of National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Ass'ns, Cincinnati, Feb. 22-27 Education Association the annual Conference of the Congress will be held. This should be of interest to all states nearby, whose members should avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the joint conference to meet and hear the leaders in education in the United States.

## **Lady Betty Decides to Stay**

BY OLIVE HIGGINS PROUTY

*Author of "Bobbie, General Manager"*

They tiptoed in one by one. Carefully they picked their way across the room, as carefully as a cat picks her way among the litter of her Lady's desk. The Grandfather of five hours went to the window and put up the curtain, and Lady Betty in the pink and white basinette in the corner for the first time saw a sunbeam on earth.

Our Lady Betty liked it. 'Twas a beautiful, sparkling thing and it shone like an angel's lock of hair. It flickered for a minute on the pink and white of the basinette and then vanished quite away. The Lady in White had pulled down the curtain.

Ah, that Lady in White. Was there any good in her? She was always on hand to shut out the light and shut in the dark; always there to send away the cool little breezes; always ready with her "sh—sh," which sounded like the soft whirr of angels' wings, and which invariably put an end to all those strange new noises. And it was she who had bound on all these queer, clumsy wrappings, and then cast our Lady Betty like a bundle of clothes into that pink box in the corner. Was this Mother?

Ah, no, little Angel-friends, Lady Betty breathed, "this can't be Mother."

The family had all tiptoed in by now, and they stood together, a bunch of four in the middle of the room. The Lady in White beckoned to them.

"Come," she said, "you may see her now." And Lady Betty held her first reception. An Angel-child had told her who would be there; a brand new Grandmother, an inexperienced Aunt, Uncle John, who had never borne a title before the little Lady's arrival, and of course the Grandfather of five hours. The Lady in White would act as usher.

"And where will Mother be, and Father?" the Angel Betty had asked of the other Angel-child, but the Angel-child had only waved her wings and flown away in a great, soft cloud, and Angel Betty had never found her afterwards. It was too late now to ask questions; for Angel Betty had become a Lady and could no more talk with the Angel-children. She had left the pink-lined clouds, and come down to a pink-lined basinette. She had left the shining Angel-land, and come down to the somber world.

"This is your Grandmother," the Lady in White announced, and Lady Betty saw a mass of brown curly hair. Were Grandmamas like this? Lady Betty had always heard that they had silky gray hair, and wore little caps. Grandmama lifted Lady Betty in her arms.

"Be careful of her head. Support it a little with one hand," the Lady in White cautioned. But Grandmama had lifted babies before. She seemed to know how. Grandmama turned to the Tall Lady.

"Would you like to hold her?" she asked.

"I guess not quite so soon," the Tall Lady said. "It's a bit too little." And Lady Betty knew this was her inexperienced Aunt Kate.

"It's awfully sweet, isn't it? Just dear," Aunt Kate added. Uncle John smiled. "Never mind, Uncle John, never mind," Lady Betty was thinking. "You uncles never take much to us at first, but we become very popular with you before the year is out."

Grandfather offered to Lady Betty his great, long forefinger, and Lady Betty clutched it with her tiny pink tendrils; and this strange man with the large finger lifted the little newcomer into his own strong arms. He rocked her back and forth gently.

"Oh, sir, you musn't do that. We don't allow her to be jostled," the Lady in White hastened to say. But Grandfather had a will of his own and jostled on. When he had put the bundle back into the basinette, and had gone away, the bundle began to cry. It wanted more jostling.

"Poor little thing. What ails it?" Aunt Kate said.

"Oh, nothing. She needs to be left alone, that's all."

The Lady in White was such an unfeeling person. Indeed there was something the matter. Lady Betty wanted Grandfather. She cried harder. She would show the Lady in White! But there was no one in the room to hear her now. They had all quietly stolen away. Even the Lady in White had disappeared. The ball was over, and our little Lady was weeping. Was the world after all, as lovely as the Angel-children said? To be bound in swaddling clothes and to be cast aside into a pink-lined basket, to weep and be un comforted, to be laughed at by Uncles and to be called "It" by Aunts, to be delightfully jostled by Grandfathers, and then to have even that small pleasure snatched away, to be ruled by a Lady in White, and to be ignored by her, to lose one's little wings and never be able to fly again among the clouds. Was all this so grand?

Ah, come little Angel-children, and take me up again into the clouds and let me lie there on their billowy folds. The World isn't so very nice after all. I would rather play hide-and-seek behind the stars with you, little Angel-friends—Oh, I am flying now. My wings have come back again. I should have liked to stay long enough to see Mother, but never mind. You came for me, Angel-children, and I follow. Lead on, I am with you again. Heigh-ho, heigh-ho. A race, yes, ready all. Fly high. The setting sun's the goal.

Lady Betty had fallen asleep.

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"She has called for her," whispered the Lady in White to the Father, who

was sitting in the deserted dining-room.

"Shall I bring her in?" the Father whispered.

"If you please," the Lady in White whispered, and glided back into the Mother's room.

The Father leaned a moment over the sleeping mite, and then touched her gently on the forehead.

"Good-bye, Angel-friends, Mother's called," Angel Betty breathed, and opened her tiny blue eyes. She saw a man, a nice man; and he was Father. Lady Betty could tell by the smile, so very tender. He lifted her gently and bore her away into a darkened room.

And there was Mother. Mother with her long black hair, and brown eyes, and the white, white hands. Such a little Mother. She was the smallest person that Lady Betty had seen on Earth. She was like an Angel-child with a broken wing, lying there on a downy cloud. Father laid Lady Betty down beside Mother, and Mother's arm fell about her.

The little Angel-children were beckoning to Lady Betty from the sky.

"Come, Angel Betty," they whispered. "Come, the race is ready to begin. We're waiting for you."

"A minute, a minute," Lady Betty breathed, "I've—I've—I've just met Mother."

"We cannot wait, Angel Betty. The setting sun will be gone, and the sun's our goal. Come now, or we'll fly away and never come back again for you. Choose between us and the World. Is it good-bye to the clouds? Is it good-bye to the stars and the moon? and to the white wings? Is it farewell to the little Angel-children? Choose, little Angel-friend."

Lady Betty felt Mother's arm tighten about her.

"I am going to stay with Mother," she whispered.

The one ray of sunlight that had found its way into the room disappeared. The sun had set. The Angel-children had flown away.

"Good-bye, little Angel-friends," Lady Betty called.



## **The Evolution of the Mother's Pension**

By MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF

Before the bar of the court a mother stood to answer the charge of the school attendance officer that her little son of ten years was an habitual truant. The attendance officer stated that in pursuance of his duty, and in compliance with the law, he had arrested the boy's mother and now asked that she be fined \$2.50 and costs for not seeing that her boy went to school. The police magistrate, a ruddy-faced man, in rough but kindly tone, looked into the faces of the trembling mother and child who stood before him. "What have you to say for yourself, madam? Why don't you see that your boy goes to school?"

"I'm out all day, sir. The boy's father is dead, and I must work to keep a home for him and two others younger than him. Indeed, sir, I tell him to go to school, but I can't be there to see that he goes, and he gets playing with other boys, and how can I help it if he doesn't go to school? Oh, sir, he is only a child, and can't you see I am doing all a woman can to keep my children and bring them up right? I'd take in work if I could get it to do, but times is hard, and I must take what I can get to do."

"Can't help it, madam. The law says your boy must go to school, and if he breaks the law you must pay the fine of \$2.50 and costs, or five days in prison. You have your choice."

Sorrow-stricken and frightened the woman drew out of her worn purse the fine, and, admonished by the judge that any further truancy on the part of her son would meet with more serious punishment, she left the court room. She had lost pay for half a day's work, had paid \$2.50 out of her scanty income, and faced the probable repetition of arrest and fine unless she could instil a deeper sense of responsibility in the child's mind than is natural to an active

boy of ten. To stay at home and look after him would mean starvation for both. To pay for such care was out of the question.

Not many weeks later the same boy was brought into the Juvenile Court charged with stealing fruit from a fruit-stand. The probation officer who had investigated the case said: "Your Honor, this boy has a bad record. He has been before the court for truancy. He is in bad company. He has no one to look after him. I think he should be placed in an institution."

"Parental neglect! No home care!" exclaimed the judge. "Madam, why don't you look out for your boy?"

"I do the best I can, sir, but I am away all day. If only I could be at home the child would not get into mischief. There is no one in the house; the child can't stay there alone all day, and on the street I don't know who he meets."

"Very well, madam, if you can't take care of your boy, he goes to the Reform School. Take him away, officer. One year in the Reform School."

Clinging to his mother, both weeping bitterly, both frightened at the whole court procedure, they kissed and embraced in the short minute allowed them, and the separation began.

The mother left the court room heart-broken and discouraged. In one short year she had been bereft of husband and child, had faced the problem of support for herself and children. Hard work, long hours, only the night to be with her children, and now the grief of seeing her boy sent from her for an act that was the direct result of the home without a mother's care seemed more than she could bear.

"Oh, if only I could have been at home my boy would not be arrested and in a reform school to-day," she moaned.

The mothers and children who have endured and who are enduring the experiences above related may be counted by the thousands. What the result of such methods of treating unfortunate mothers and more unfortunate children has been can only be realized by tracing the life histories of hundreds of children who had similar experiences and, now grown to manhood, are able to look back over their own lives and see the causes which brought them into prison cells.

An investigation into the child life of thousands of prison inmates in which they were permitted to tell their own stories shows that hundreds of them count their first separation from home and commitment to a reformatory as the turning point downward in their lives.

For thirty or more years in many instances these men have been an expense and care to the State because in their first misdemeanor the treatment was not conducive to the building of character. Those who have given deepest study to cause and effect see that it may be more beneficial to society and more truly economical in the end to give every child his own mother's guidance and care even though it be necessary to provide some financial help for a few years.

There is another aspect to this question which has wielded its influence in the evolution of a plan that would enable the mother to keep a home for her children. The struggle for existence has driven many children of tender years into the ranks of wage-earners before they were physically able to do the tasks required of them. Deprived thereby of any chance for the fundamental education which would enable them to fill places where there would be opportunity for advancement, these children have become a source of anxiety to all who are interested in the future of society. Some plan must be devised that would make it possible for the home to be sustained without the work of little children. Thus the nation-wide movement to secure mothers' pensions has

a meaning and purpose the scope of which is not fully realized even by some of its warmest advocates.

No one denies the mighty influence of a mother on the life of men and women. "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother" was the statement made by one of America's greatest men, Abraham Lincoln. John Quincy Adams, another of America's statesmen, gave to his mother the credit in the brief sentence, "All that I am my mother made me." Countless others have repeated in other ways the testimony as to the mother's influence on life and character. Not in flattery or for effect is this credit given, but from the inmost hearts of those who remember the quiet influences of the years of infancy and childhood, guiding, teaching, checking, and in love ever holding before the child the great goal of life, and instilling the principles which lay strongly and surely the foundation for useful manhood and womanhood.

If I were asked what is the greatest loss a child can sustain, I should say without hesitation, the loss of a mother, the deprivation of a mother's care in childhood and youth. If the greatest of men and women testify that mothering has been the foundation of their greatness, so is it also true that lack of mothering is the cause which has led many men and women into lives of crime and sorrow. An investigation into the early history of those whose lives would be counted as failures will show that many of them have been deprived of a mother's care in youth. Just as a man's greatness is due to his mother, in equal proportion is his downfall attributed to the lack of a mother.

Without question the greatest asset in the life of children is a good mother. The greatest wrong to children is to deprive them of that mother when by any possibility it can be avoided. It is one of the developments of recent years that social conditions are being studied with a view to seeking the causes which are responsible for the weak places.

The value of mothers as factors in keeping the body politic clean and pure and wholesome, is the underlying reason for the rapidly-growing sentiment in favor of mothers' pensions, not for service rendered, but for service being rendered to the State. The mother's pension is not given after her duties as a mother are finished, and as a reward and payment for what she has done. The pension is given while she is performing her duties as a mother, and to make it possible for her to give her time to those duties, when through extreme poverty or widowhood or other causes she would otherwise be compelled to go out to be the bread winner or break up the home and scatter the children in homes of various kinds.

The mother's pension then is for the benefit of the children and the State, and not the mother. It is an allowance given until the child is fourteen on condition that the mother keeps the home, and does not go out of the home to work. In other words, The State places to the credit of the mother herself and allows her to use it, part of the money that heretofore has been expended in almshouses, reform schools, truant schools, orphan asylums and prisons.

The State pays the mother herself enough to let her mother her own children instead of trying to find foster mothers for them.

Any one who has had a loving, faithful, devoted mother must see what a benefit such mothering will be to the children.

When death robs children of a father's care, it is loss enough without doubling the calamity by depriving them of their mother, by placing them in other homes, or by leaving her to struggle for the daily bread, meanwhile all the daylight hours leaving them uncared for and alone.

When for good reasons other than death the sole care of the children rests on the mother, the need of the children is just as great. Half the children brought into Juvenile Courts are truants. Truancy is rarely habit-

ual except among children where the home conditions are bad. The mother is often out all day and there is no one to look after the children and to see that they go to school at the proper time; no one to keep them out of mischief after school is over, and they are consequently left to drift without supervision of any kind. A working mother with the best qualifications for being a good mother to her children cannot exercise her powers when she is absent most of the daylight hours and must work far into the night to keep the roof over their heads. The State has decided that her service to the children is more important than her service as a wage earner.

It is safe to predict that truancy will decrease fifty per cent. when the mother's pension becomes operative.

The mother left with the care of a family can rarely afford to live in a good neighborhood. The depraved and vicious do not hesitate to set their traps for the boys and girls left to wander the streets, and the hard-working mother trembles for the safety of her loved ones whom she must leave to give them bread.

The mother's pension laws in Australia and New Zealand have entirely abolished child labor. With an adequate support to the mother, the children can go to school and there is no temptation to send them to factory or shop until they are old enough. The mother's pension laws there have removed these hard-working mothers from the ranks of women working for small wages. The same results should be shown here when the system is perfected.

The mother's pension has for its purpose the protection and home education of children, because without such home education the State has filled its orphan asylums, reform schools and prisons. The State owes children protection to a larger degree than it owes protection to adults, because children are unable to think and plan and provide for themselves.

In no way should the State usurp the duties of a good parent, but in

every way should the State see that as far as possible every child has the care that is only possible when given by good parents.

More and more will the nation guard the physical, moral and mental welfare of its children because in so doing it ensures its success and permanence and quality as a nation.

The Mothers' Congress is responsible for the introduction and passage of the laws in a number of the States which have enacted this important legislation.

The law in Idaho gives the pension or allowance to women who are widows or whose husbands are in the penitentiary, and the administration is left to the probate court. Pennsylvania, which enacted the law in the same year, has placed the administration in the hands of the women quite independent of any court. Widowed or abandoned mothers may receive the pension. The Governor appoints annually five or seven women in each county to act as trustees. They serve without pay but have money provided for headquarters and paid investigators and stenographer not to exceed three thousand dollars in any county.

The State gives to each county as much as the county itself appropriates for pensions. No mother can receive a pension until the trustees are satisfied that the recipient is worthy in every way and that it is necessary in order that she may keep her children together. There must be reports from the teacher of the district school showing that the child or children are attending school.

There are restrictions to safeguard the State from fraudulent applications.

The allowance given is \$12 per month for one child, \$20 for two children, and \$25 for three children.

Oregon enacted the mother's pension law in 1913 through the Mothers' Congress there. Its administration is left with the Juvenile Court in each county.

Kansas City, Mo., claims the honor of having secured the statute for a

widow's allowance in the United States in April, 1911. It was applicable only to Kansas City which had the population required under the act. It has been in operation ever since.

Judge Porterfield says, "There is scarcely a law on our statute books that is giving greater satisfaction or doing more good. There is no other law that touches the home so directly and by building it up, fortifying and preserving the home it contributes to good citizenship. It is not only a constructive measure of the highest value, but it is an economical provision as well. Out of thirty-nine allowances in force, the lowest is \$8 per month and the highest \$22. Our county is paying \$493 per month to aid in caring for 114 children, to aid in building up 114 citizens. One mother came into the court with six children under fourteen years of age before the law was enacted. Four of them were sent to a home at an expense to the county of \$80 per month. When the widow's allowance bill was passed we gave this mother an allowance of \$22 per month and gave her back her four boys. For more than a year she has been taking good care of her six children at an expense to the county of \$22 per month as against the \$60 per month for the support of her four children. The law is only for the partial support. We expect and require the mother to earn all she can at home and the children above school age must help the family."

Nearly three years' test has been given the Kansas City Mother's pension and it has proved its practical value.

Illinois in 1911 also enacted a mother's pension law, and the State claims it saves each county \$4.75 per month on each child.

It was in March, 1911, that the earnest plea for mothers' pensions was made at the Second International Congress on Child Welfare held in Washington under the auspices of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, by Mrs.



G. Harris Robertson of Tennessee, whose work among mothers and children had emphasized the crying need for such recognition of motherhood. The appeal was so convincing that the National Congress of Mothers unanimously recommended that its State Branches should make it their work for the coming year.

In the Massachusetts Branch Mrs. Robert Park had also seen the great need for holding families together under a mother's care. The mothers from Massachusetts to Oregon, from Illinois to Texas, went home to work for mother's pensions. Seldom has legislation for such a new measure received such wide support from men of influence in governors' chairs and legislative halls. The press has almost without exception given it unqualified support. Some influential papers have spent large sums in conducting campaigns of education as to its value and importance. The desire to place motherhood on the high plane of honored service to the

State, worthy of payment in rearing their children—for death may enter all homes and by the loss of father and husband reduce any family from comfort to poverty—is manifest everywhere.

The family to-day self-respecting and self-supporting suffers enough in the irreparable loss of husband and father without enduring a pauper's dole as was the only possible relief afforded under past conditions.

Will the State be defrauded? Will unworthy cases be helped? Surely the State is able to guard itself as well from fraud in the administration of mothers' pensions as it does in teachers' pensions and soldiers' pensions. It is the administration of the law which will decide that, and on the administration will rest the blame if those who are not qualified to receive it are benefited. On the administration, not on the system, must the blame be placed.

## Too Late

R. B. INCE

I hear their pattering footsteps—  
The children that were mine;  
In the still night they visit me,  
Their brown eyes glisten and shine—

They come to me deep sighing;  
"What lessons did you give  
To us, your own dear children,  
That we might learn to live?"

"You loved us, Mother, surely,  
And yet you took no thought  
How fared we in Life's Market,  
Where good and ill is bought.

"No leaping fire you kindled  
Within our childish hearts,  
For Truth, for Purity and Peace  
And now, ere life departs,

"You wonder how it happened  
Our footsteps went astray;  
For we were foolish children  
Who lived but for the day.

"The dreams of deathless prophets,  
The poet's sacred fire  
In us awaked no longing  
Of unappeased desire.

"You should have shown us, Mother,  
How splendid life can be  
To those with ears for hearing,  
To those with eyes to see!"

I hear their little footsteps—  
The children that I bore;  
Their eyes are big with weeping  
And they haunt me evermore.

## **Holiday Season in the Nursery**

THE holiday season which is fast approaching is one of dread to the average mother. It means sickness for the children, doctors' bills, additional care and expense. This should not be so and need not be so if the mother plans a safe and sane Christmas. A little precaution on her part will soon eliminate all the disagreeable features of the happy holidays.

Moderation in everything is greatly to be desired, but never more so than in the Christmas preparations for children. Expensive, pretentious toys excite their little minds and too much excitement often results in sickness. Moderation in foods should also be observed at this season of the year, for heavy, rich foods invariably upset the digestions of little folks. With moderation as the mother's motto she sets about to make the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year celebrations ones of delight, despite the fact they are run on a safe and sane basis.

First let us consider the things that children may eat on these occasions which will be simple and yet appear to be a festive menu. Holiday dinners and candies are responsible for a great many large doctors' bills, and yet with a little thought the children's Christmas dinner may be made delicious and perfectly harmless. Turkey or tender young chicken is generally harmless if the white meat is given to the children and it is cut up fine and chewed well. This may be preceded by a clear broth or cream of celery soup, and accompanied by one green vegetable, such as spinach, which should be well cooked and put through a sieve, and, if the child is more than two years old, a baked potato, with bread and butter. For dessert frozen junket, vanilla ice cream, a soft custard or blanc mange would be suitable and easily digested. This dinner should be served in the middle of the day, never at night.

As for candies, only those that are home-made should be given to children, and even these should be of the simplest. Molasses and peppermint, gum drops and barley sugar are the best; fruit and nut candy is much too rich for little people. After dinner, two or three pieces of one of the simple candies mentioned should be given to the child, and never under any circumstances should he be allowed to munch candy at will between meals. Sickness or a more or less serious disorder will result if the mother is careless in this respect.

A great many women deny their children all sweets until they have passed the age of eight years, but as the stomach craves candy or something sweet occasionally, it is best to gratify this appetite judiciously. A piece of candy now and then is relished by the best of children.

With the question of food settled, the mother must now consider the gifts to be given to her babies.

Expensive presents give a child no more pleasure than a simple one, if the simple one is appropriate, and the folly of spending large sums of money on a baby too little to appreciate it is apparent to any mother who will temper her generosity with common sense. If you must spend a great many dollars on baby's Christmas, and your pocketbook is full, put the money in the bank, where it may accumulate for the child. This is much the best way, as it prevents the little one from becoming accustomed too early in life to the luxuries which money will buy. A few simple toys will make him as happy on Christmas Day as an avalanche of expensive gifts. Moderation in gifts applies to older children as well. It is more difficult, of course, to please them, but it is quite possible to do so with a small outlay of money.

## Ten Christmas Stories for Little Folks

*The Christmas Cake.* MAUD LINDSAY.  
(In "More Mother Stories.")

*The Pumpkin Glory.* WILLIAM DEAN  
HOWELLS. (In "Christmas Every Day.")

*Christmas Every Day.* WILLIAM DEAN  
HOWELLS.

*The Night Before Christmas.* CLEMENT  
MOORE.

*The Golden Cobwebs.* SARA CONE BRYANT.  
(In "Best Stories to Tell to Children.")

*Paulina's Christmas.* E. N. and G. E.

PARTRIDGE. (In "Story-Telling in Home and  
School.") Sturgis & Walton Co., New York.

*A Boy's Visit To Santa Claus.* RICHARD  
THOMAS WYCHE. (In "Some Great Stories  
and How to Tell Them.") Pub. by Nelson &  
Co., New York.

*Why the Chimes Rang.* R. M. ALDEN.  
*Bird's Christmas Carol.* KATE DOUGLAS  
WIGGIN.

*The Christmas Angel.* ABBIE FARWELL  
BROWN.

## The Fool's Christmas

BY FLORENCE MAY

On Christmas eve, the king, disconsolate,  
Weary with all the round of pomp and state,  
Gave whisper to his Fool; "A merry way  
Have I bethought to spend our holiday.  
Thou shalt be king, and I the fool will be—  
And thou shalt rule the court in drollery  
For one short day!" With caper, nod, and  
grin,

Full saucily replied the harlequin;  
"A merry play; and sire, amazing strange  
For one of us to suffer such a change!  
But thou? Why all the kings of earth" said  
he,  
"Have played the fool and played it skill-  
fully!"  
Then the king's laugh stirred all the arras dim,  
Till courtiers wondered at his humor grim.

And so it chanced, when wintry sunbeams  
shone  
From Christmas skies, lo! perched upon the  
throne  
Sat Lionel the Fool, in purple drest,  
The royal jewels blazing on his breast.

On Christmas morning too, the king arose,  
And donned with sense of ease, the silken hose  
Of blue and scarlet; then the doublet red  
With azure slashed; upon his kingly head  
That wearied off beneath a jeweled crown,  
He drew the jingling hood, and tied it down.  
All day he crouched among the chill and  
gloom  
None seeking him—within the turret room.

But when calm night with starry lamps came  
down  
Her purple stairs, he crept forth to the town—

His scanty cape about his shoulders blew,  
Close to his face the screening hood he drew.  
He knocked first at a cottage of the poor,  
And lo! flew open wide the ready door—  
"We have not much to give, dear fool," they  
said,  
"But thou art cold; come share our fire and  
bread!"  
With willing hands they freed his cape from  
snow  
And warmed and cheered him ere they let  
him go.

And so 't was ever. By the firelight dim  
Of many a hearthstone poor they welcomed  
him;  
And children who would shun the king in awe,  
Would scamper to the doorway if they saw  
The scarlet peak of Lionel's red hood.  
"Dear fool" they called him loudly, "thou  
wert good  
To bring the frosted cake! Come in and see  
Our little Lishelk—hark! she calls for thee!"

And so 't was ever. On his way the king  
With softened heart saw many a grievous  
thing:  
But love he found, and charity. And when  
He crept at dawn through palace gates again,  
He knew that he who rules by fear alone  
May sit securely on his throne;  
But he who rules by love shall find it true  
That love, the milder power, is mightier, too.  
"Dear fool," he said, "thou art the king of  
hearts, in sooth;  
The king of hearts! Today no farce but truth!  
For I have seen that thou, beneath my rule,  
Hast often played the king,—and I the fool!"

## **Program for Parent-Teacher Associations for November**

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of educational value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

**FIRST TOPIC** (To be read by one member).

EVOLUTION OF MOTHERS' PENSION, AND EFFECT ON TRUANCY.

PRESIDENT'S DESK.

**SECOND TOPIC** (To be assigned to another member).

WHAT OTHER PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS ARE DOING. SEE STATE NEWS.

**THIRD TOPIC** (To be assigned to third member).

CURRENT NEWS OF WORK FOR CHILD-WELFARE, gleaned from all sources, both local and international.

### **LOAN PAPERS ON CHILD NURTURE**

Send for the printed list of Loan Papers on Child Nurture and Child Welfare prepared especially for program use. The list will be sent free, provided stamp is enclosed. The papers are type-written. Twelve may be selected and kept for the season at a cost of \$2.00.

They have been written by specialists to meet the needs of parents in dealing with problems of child life at different stages of its development. Single papers will be sent for twenty-five cents and may be kept three weeks. Many new papers have been added to the list.

The Report of Third International Congress on Child-Welfare contains a wealth of material for use in Parent-Teacher Associations. The edition is limited, so that orders should be sent promptly to secure it. Price \$2.00. Send orders to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 910 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

### **BOOKS FOR PARENTS**

A list of 25 books suitable for use of parents will be sent to those who desire it. A Circle of 25 members can have a valuable circulating library if each member can buy just one book, or these books may often be secured from the Library.



## Department of Hygiene

HELEN C. PUTNAM, A.B., M.D., *Editor*

### ESSENTIALS WE STAND FOR:

ACCURATE VITAL STATISTICS "TO MEASURE EFFORT"

BREAST FEEDING FOR INFANTS

PUPIL HEALTH OFFICERS—LEARNING BY DOING  
—STANDARDIZING CONDITIONS

HOUSE TEMPERATURE NOT EXCEEDING 68° F.

OPEN AIR SLEEPING AND SCHOOLS

SCHOOL GARDENS AND ELEMENTARY BIOLOGY  
REQUIRED

TRAINING BOYS AND GIRLS FOR SELF-SUPPORT

EDUCATING MEN AND WOMEN FOR CARE OF  
THEIR CHILDREN

AND SOME OTHER THINGS

## DR. SNEDDEN ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INFANT MORTALITY

HERE are some of the good things I heard Dr. David Snedden, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, say last month about the responsibility of public schools for better parents of better children.

"The prevention of a large degree of infant mortality requires the co-operative efforts of many public and private agencies, and of individual and collective action. If the rate of infant mortality now prevalent in most of our communities is to be greatly reduced during the next few years, it is evident that substantial improvements along lines already somewhat well mapped out must be effected. Housing conditions must be improved, the scientific equipment of physicians and nurses further developed, food inspection extended and made more effective, the economic conditions of actual and prospective mothers made more tolerable, and the responsibilities of both father and mother in the formation of the family increased.

"It may be, indeed, that in addition new methods of supervision and support must be developed. If the advocates of public action in the direction of eugenics have their way, the physical, moral and economic capacities of those who in the future form families will be scrutinized, and made to meet at least minimum standards. The provision of widows' pensions may be but a foretaste of the extension of public aid to neces-

sitous actual and prospective mothers, whether these be widows or not. America may yet follow the example of European countries in the public provision of improved housing. Municipal activities may extend, yet, to the provision of free milk and ice, as they now extend to the provision of free medical and pharmaceutical service.

"But, whether or not these various agencies come into being or improve, it is clearly evident that, in the last analysis, it is the individual mother herself who must assume largest responsibilities for the prevention of infant mortality. A wealth of publicly supported and controlled agencies will be ineffective if the mothers themselves are unintelligent, and indisposed to take right action. Fundamentally, therefore, the problem of infant mortality, like so many other problems, is one of educating the individual, on the one hand to be an intelligent and effective producer of service, and on the other an intelligent and effective chooser and utilizer of the services offered by the community and by various expert individuals within the community.

"The popular belief that we must look more and more to our public schools to meet these ends is sound. We are ever claiming a larger share of the time of the youth for purposes of education. This education can be made indefinitely more useful and effective than is now the case.

"The public school has now accepted, without question, large responsibilities for education in hygiene and sanitation. With the approval of the public, the public school system is now also prepared to accept a large degree of responsibility for educational training—that is, quite specific and effective training for useful callings. That the keeping of an effective home, with its subsidiary occupations of buying, preparing and serving food, of buying, making and repairing clothes, of conserving cleanliness of home and body, and of preserving the health of children, constitutes a large and important life calling for a great number of people, no one now disputes. Hence, in so far as any public school system differentiates systematic vocational training, it will surely include, sooner or later, among the vocations for which training is thus to be given, that of home-making.

"It is, therefore, within these two fields—that of instruction in hygiene and sanitation in the general school, and that of vocational training in the special school—that we must look to the possibilities of the school in the reduction of infant mortality. Let us consider more specifically the opportunities presented. Instruction in hygiene in our best schools now begins in the first grade, and continues through all the grades of elementary school and high school. Much of this instruction is as yet not very practical, and a still larger part of it takes little cognizance of the home conditions of the pupils. It is a detached and remote form of instruction, instead of something linking closely up with the actual lives being lived by the pupils. Nevertheless, improvements are steadily being made. Not only are teachers becoming more sensible and more efficient in giving instruction in hygiene and sanitation, but medical inspection, especially when aided by the school nurse, is becoming always more helpful.

"There is no reason why all of this instruction in hygiene and sanitation

should not link up very closely, indeed, with the home in which the pupils now live, to the extent of making them sensitive and informed as to prevalent dangers to the health of children, and the most effective ways of preventing and combating these dangers. Effective teaching in this connection, with the actual conditions of the homes always kept clearly before the children, ought not only to improve present conditions, but ought to lay a foundation in pupils' minds for the facing of the problems that must arise when they become home-makers in turn, with children for whose health they have responsibility. Instruction of this kind can be made especially effective in the high school, and in the continuation school. We have developed, as yet, but a part of the possibilities of instruction in hygiene, especially as this affects young people from twelve to sixteen years of age.

"The vocational school of home-making is even now a reality in Massachusetts. By this is not meant here the two hours per week of household arts instruction found in many high schools, but rather a separate school receiving girls as day pupils from fourteen to eighteen years of age, and young women as evening pupils from seventeen to twenty-five years of age. This type of school, which is as yet but in the infant state of its development, contemplates an exaltation of the vocation of home-making. It seeks to understand what are the requirements imposed by effective home-making as that pertains to people living on various economic levels. It is not designed to train a girl whose present and prospective home must be managed on a scale of expenditure of under \$1,000 per year, to believe that she can only live on a scale of family expenditure of \$2,000 or more per year. It is not intended to make her an adept in fancy handicrafts, but rather strong and effective in useful occupations. It will teach her to buy, as well as to prepare and serve, useful service or material products.

"At present, such is the strength of tradition, even these schools are making but slight connection with the homes from which their pupils come. Eventually, they must make these homes their laboratories. There is no reason why a first-class vocational home-making school for girls should not be conducted on what is sometimes called the part-time basis—that is, the assembling of a class of pupils periodically for certain forms of instruction, and then their return to their own homes as laboratories wherein the instruction can be carried into practice. This home-making will surely not consider effective oversight of the health and well being of children, large or small, a negligible feature of its work.

"The real vocational school of home making must be of two distinct types, according as it can claim its pupils for full time, or for evening instruction only. The full time day school should have control of its pupils for at least eight hours per day, of which fully one-half or more should be spent in the home itself, the teacher visiting the pupils' homes and giving necessary supervision as far as practicable. The second type of school must be for those who are obliged during the day to earn a living. Home-making becomes, for them, a vocation to be studied in evening hours. This type of school, as experience already demonstrates, may be expected to prove especially valuable for young persons from eighteen

to twenty-five years of age who have reached the stage when they are looking forward to home-making as a definite career, with interest and some appreciation of its responsibilities.

"There are also possibilities in the present household arts courses as found interwoven in elementary and secondary general courses of instruction. Owing, however, to the remoteness of the large majority of teachers from the practical problems of the home, and a certain degree of fastidiousness in dealing with many of these problems, much of this work is relatively ineffectual. The spirit of our time, however, is such that great improvements in the near future ought to be possible.

"It is in these directions chiefly that we are to look for largest direct reactions on the conditions that make for infant mortality. Imperfect nurture and illness affect children hardly less than infants, and it is the business of the larger hygiene to cover the entire field.

"Education, at its best, is also constantly increasing the sensitiveness and understanding of young people as to the possibilities and responsibilities of wholesome family life. Right education diminishes irresponsibility toward parenthood, as toward the other important factors in sound social life. A greater degree of purposiveness in education toward these ends is a possibility that should be realized in the near future."

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## God's House

HELEN M. PARSONS

God's house a lovely place must be!  
So fair to see  
With angels all about, who bid;  
"Good night," to me.  
With shining moon, and star  
Way up so far.  
There are what kind of toys

In heaven for little boys?  
(Not toys! *He* must have toys in heaven for  
little boys.)  
And do you think, if I were good,  
That then, God would  
Just let me have the moon  
For my balloon.

## Educational Notes

### FROM THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION

#### EDUCATION FOR THE HOME

*"Send all the information you can to these mothers. We are 15 miles from a doctor. So many women die."*

*"Many women in this district live 50 to 100 miles from a physician."*

*"We are 40 miles from town and need help for ourselves and our children."*

*"We are 28 miles from the nearest post office. We need help."*

Appeals like these received by the Bureau of Education from thousands of women throughout the United States in the past year indicate the need which mothers, especially in remote rural districts, feel for advice in the care and training of their children. In recognition of these needs the home education division of the Bureau of Education has been established. Its objects are "To help parents in the home education of their children with reference to health, games, and play, early mental development, and formation of moral habits; to interest boys and girls, who have left school and are still at home, by directing their home reading and study; and to further the education of the parents in the home."

To help accomplish this the Bureau of Education coöperates with the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, with a view to reaching as many homes as possible. A series of bulletins on home educational problems has been prepared and parents desiring advice in child nurture and home making may receive it from the Bureau.

As a basis for further work the home-education division has obtained a carefully selected list of women in all parts of the United States to coöperate in extension of opportunities to all parents for education in home making. County superintendents of schools were asked to furnish the names of women in their communities who could be depended upon for a certain amount of initiative and leadership. Through the efforts of the 1,593 women thus selected and from other sources, the Bureau has

been furnished with nearly 40,000 names of mothers who feel the need of information on the care and home training of children, and it is with these 40,000 mothers that a beginning has been made.

The bulk of the requests are for help in the problems of home making and care of the children. The mothers ask the Bureau for help in choosing literature, in reading courses for themselves and for their children. They ask for bulletins on "home matters;" material for home study for boys and girls; literature on moral training; books suitable to children who have completed the common-school course; methods of bringing together the home and the school; suggestions for forming sewing and cooking classes; and information necessary for organizing parent-teacher associations.

Some of the States, through packet libraries and by other means, are reaching these people who are without access to the usual sources of information; but in most localities no effort is made to reach the mothers themselves with the facts that are essential to the sound development of the children and the home. It is in this field that the home-education division plans to do its work, not by interference with local conditions, but as a clearing house of information for State and local authorities.

#### READING COURSE FOR GIRLS

*United States Bureau of Education,  
Home Education Division*

#### *Reading Course No. 5*

In our schools boys and girls learn to read and any who are fortunate



enough to attend schools of the best type, form the habit of reading, learn to distinguish good books from bad and worthless books, and acquire a taste for the best. Others are less fortunate and finish or quit school with little knowledge of books, with no well established habits of reading, and without having a sure and discriminate taste.

For most American girls school life is short, school hours are few and there is little time in school for general reading. At best, the schools can only give them the ability to read—to hear through the eye and to interpret the printed page. The actual reading, beyond the school lessons, must be done at home and most of it after school days are over; for this most American girls have much time.

It is also true that reading is most profitable to those who, at the same time, are gaining knowledge through the actual and ordinary experience of life and home and industrial occupations. We learn by doing. Experience is the great educator. We learn by doing only when the doing is intelligent. Experience educates only when it is understood and it is most educative only when it becomes the means through which we interpret the experiences of others, adding them to our own and thus enriching our lives beyond the possibility of our own personal experiences. The learner must ever be a worker and the worker should ever be a learner. This leads to all-sided intelligence; fullness of life, happiness and usefulness.

The books recommended in this course are chosen with a view to the duties and responsibilities most girls must meet and assume in life and with a consideration for their practical value in helping girls to learn the things they need to know, but which most girls can learn only through reading.

A good book should be read more than once and every girl should own some of the books which she reads. Books are cheap and money paid for

them is well invested and will pay large dividends in life and happiness and even in money itself. Most cities and towns in the United States and some country communities have good public libraries and many public schools, both in city and country, have good small collections. Every community in which boys and girls live should have a public library with all the books of this list and many others in it. If there is no such a library in your community, in the school or elsewhere, then you should get all the girls to work with you and not rest until there is one.

To each person giving satisfactory evidence of having read all the books in this list, there will be awarded a certificate, bearing the seal of the United States Bureau of Education and signed by the Commissioner of Education, and it is hoped that many thousands may do so. State school officers are asked to coöperate with the Bureau of Education in directing in their several States this and other reading courses arranged by the Bureau. In those States in which this is done, the certificates may bear also the signature of the chief school officers.

The Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education will, as far as possible, answer questions about the subject matter of these books asked by those registering for this reading course.

For admission to the circle of girls reading in this course, it is only necessary to write to the Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., giving your name and postoffice address, your age and a brief statement of your education and occupation. You should write the Home Education Division of the Bureau when you have finished reading any book of the course. It is not necessary that the books be read in the order given. They should all be read, however, within three years from the time that you register.

## Department Home Economics

THE Chairman of the Home Economics Department asks the assistance of State Presidents in forming Home Economics Committees under able leaders in each and every State. She asks also that the following questionnaire and Study Class outline be brought to the attention of groups and individuals everywhere. Other outlines for study will be provided for special groups on receipt of a detailed statement of the character and needs

of the group. The chief duty of this Department as defined by the Board is to study and promote education for home-making, as a beginning in this direction. Will every mother of girls in the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teacher Associations please answer clearly and fully the questions asked and send to the Chairman of the Department?

(MRS.) MARGARET P. STANNARD,  
19 Chestnut St., Boston.

## Program and Syllabus for Meetings of Parent-Teacher Associations

### 1. *What does a good homemaker need to know?*

- (a) as worker.
- (b) as buyer.
- (c) as educator.
- etc., etc.

Lecture followed by discussion.

### 2. *How I learned housekeeping and homemaking.*

Five ten-minute papers from members, followed by discussion.

### 3. *What we may save in time, strength, money and human life by preliminary training for home-making.*

Papers and discussion.

### 4. *In training girls for home-making, what can the school do?*

*What must the home do?*

Papers and discussion by teachers and parents.

### QUESTIONS.

1. How many daughters have you?
2. What are their ages?
3. What have you taught them about housekeeping and home-making?
4. What have they learned at school which will help them to make good homes and to be wise mothers?
5. What regular home responsibilities have they?
6. What can you do to increase their opportunity to become good home-makers?

## Some Practical Suggestions for Parent-Teacher Associations

Officers and Chairman of the Standing Committee should comprise the Executive Board.

One By-Law might be included as follows: Two or more members at large may be elected by the Board to serve in an advising capacity, and be entitled to vote. Principals or teachers could fill these places to advantage.

As far as practical the Executive Board should transact all business, reporting briefly to circles. Very important matters should be brought before the members for discussion and action. In newly organized circles have Board plan program for the first year.

Provide for the entertainment of young children accompanying their mothers to the meeting. Eighth or ninth grade girls are usually glad to volunteer their services.

Have "Question Box" for mothers to deposit slips containing written problems to be discussed at a future meeting.

The roll might be called alphabetically a small number at each meeting, responses given in the way of quotations, book titles for children's reading, book titles for mothers' reading, titles of indoor games, titles of outdoor games, songs for children, etc., one topic at each meeting. Send live report to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, Box 4022, West Philadelphia, Pa., before the tenth of each month.

### COMMITTEES

President appoints chairman, and each chairman selects her workers.

Each chairman should get in touch immediately with the state chairman of her department. If the state is not organized write to the national chairman.

The membership committee will have greatest success by individual effort through friendly visiting. The Child Hygiene committee should give special attention to the young and expectant mothers in the community. Reach them through informal house meetings; have talks by physicians, nurses or practical mothers. Also look into school and house hygiene, food, air, and sleep.

The social committee might serve as ushers and endeavor to make every mother and teacher feel at home. Programs should be planned with a view to giving out practical helps, choosing subjects pertaining to the welfare of the child in connection with home, school, church and state.

Full, free and friendly discussions by parents and teachers are of greatest importance.

If possible plan for an occasional evening meeting, inviting the fathers and enrolling them as members.

### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR MEETINGS

- (1) A complete roll of members with addresses and telephone numbers.
- (2) A comfortably arranged, pleasant room.
- (3) A cordial welcome at the door.
- (4) A prompt beginning of the meeting which should be without dragging.
- (5) Adherence to the simple rules of parliamentary practice and recognition of parliamentary etiquette.
- (6) A program worth while; an address, a paper, a magazine article, round table discussion, question box, etc.; musical, literary or otherwise entertaining numbers; a social get-acquainted half hour.
- (7) An invitation to new members.
- (8) A reminder of the next meeting day.
- (9) A hearty, personal "come next time."
- (10) An early adjournment.

## The National Council of Women

A meeting of nation wide interest was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on the sixteenth and seventeenth of October. It seems to foretell a gathering together of the women of our country, in a union broader, solider and more effective than any organization which has been created heretofore.

The National Council of Women came into existence in 1888. Since that date National Councils have been formed in twenty-one countries, and in others where no National Council exists as yet, some women are preparing the way for their formation. These national bodies are grouped under the organization known as the *International Council of Women*—which “has created a means of communication, understanding and common action between the women of each nation. It has made their movement an organized and living force and has stimulated wide circles of women to work for the readjustment of women to the modern conditions of life and for the common welfare.” Through its standing committees it has created Information Bureaus concerning women’s work, position, and progress. It inculcates in all countries international peace and arbitration. It has roused the women to work for the better legal position of women in the family and the state. It is working incessantly for the suppression of white slave traffic and the state regulation of vice, and demands an equal moral standard for men and women.

It gives its attention to public health, education, and promotes measures for the protection of emigrants and immigrants, especially women and children. Its meetings, held every five years, are a great world’s interchange of the work, the hopes and the ideals of womankind, and its officers feel that it is fast realizing its objects, and that today, “wherever a woman goes, whatever her nationality is, she is sure to find fellow-workers every-

where, friends who are willing to hold her, to introduce her to their sphere of work, to bring travellers into touch with the leading movements and interests in the public life of their country.

The National Council of Women of the United States has felt for some time that, although it had taken the initiative, and stands at the head of all National Councils, with a membership of 17 national organizations, representing three million women, it had not extended its lines broadly enough to include all national organizations, nor had it created the solidarity most essential to attain among the women of our republic. As it is only through the Council that International representation is possible every National Council should be representative of all interests. Under the leadership of its great-hearted president, Mrs. Kate Waller Barret, the movement to broaden the scope of the National Council was begun.

Presidents of some of the larger national organizations were interviewed and interested, and as a result a call was issued to all of the national organizations to send delegates to consider whether they should not all unite for our nation’s sake, for woman’s sake, to make our National Council thoroughly representative of all the women in the land.

With great generosity they offered to vacate the present offices and leave them open for an absolutely new choice when the revised and enlarged organization should be effected. The first meeting to consider this proposition was held in Washington one year ago, and re-convened in Pittsburgh on the sixteenth of October.

A more delightful interchange of fraternal feeling it would be hard to find in any assemblage. The spirit of self-forgetfulness brooded over all, and the greater spirit of love and service prevailed over any petty desire which might have been felt to



press the claims of any particular organization.

It was not a large group, but it represented millions of women, and if, as is no doubt the case, they were the interpreters of the millions who stood behind them, then truly we may expect great results from the new "Council of National Organizations."

The National Congress of Mothers was represented at this conference by Mrs. Schoff, Mrs. J. P. Mumford and Miss Jane M. Pressley. Its delegates attended the Conference with mingled feelings of curiosity and interest, but when they caught the vision as opened up by Mrs. Barrett, they felt their place should be among the ranks of those who were standing together for conference and coöperation in promoting better conditions

in the home, the country, the whole wide world.

The reports on Membership and Officers were postponed to the meeting for possible re-organization in November, 1915, at Washington, D. C. The existing temporary officers of the committee hold over. Mrs. Pennybaker, President of the temporary organization, closed the meeting, saying that a step of great importance to the world had been taken. The beautiful spirit of unselfishness, altruism and harmony among women representing widely differing interests was one never to be forgotten, and will ever make the Pittsburgh Conference one where all felt "It was good to be there."

MARY E. MUMFORD

### Braver Things Than War

"I have just come back from Europe, where every nation has made a soldier out of every man fit to bear arms," writes David Starr Jordan, Chancellor of Stanford University, in the leading article in the November issue of *Boys' Life*, the Boy Scouts' official magazine. "And now the whole continent is impoverished and starving while its rivers run with blood of young men who have been killed by other young men, who had no quarrel with them at all.

"It is a soldier's business to fight and kill or to stand up against other soldiers who are forced to fight and kill. It is a Boy Scout's business to help and to save, to make this world a better place for good men and women and boys to live in. It costs \$40,000 for every man who is killed in battle, and this amount must be paid in 150 years' work for each one of the farmers and workmen who make up the armies of Europe. And we who are outside of Europe may be most thankful that we were born

in a republic where no man is made a soldier against his will.

"Just a word to the Boy Scouts of America as to what they are doing and why they are doing it. It is not that we want to make soldiers of you. That is about the poorest use a nation ever made of its young men. There must be soldiers, sometimes, even in our great republic, but they are called to fight only when some men who ought to know better have made some awful blunder.

"We want you, Boy Scouts, for braver things than war. We want to make men of you, strong, kind, alert, vigorous, helpful men, useful to yourselves, to your neighbors, to your country, and to the world. For the world to-day is one great nation, and whatever helps or hurts one part of it aids or injures all. Once in a great while the world needs soldiers. It needs you all the time as boys and as men, and it wants you clear-eyed, wholesome and high spirited, fit to do good work, and willing to do it with abounding joy."

## State News

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the tenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

### ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCES OF STATE BRANCHES NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

#### What is State News?

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE asks for reports of work accomplished from every circle or association in membership. In writing to the MAGAZINE please remember that news of nation-wide interest must tell of work actually accomplished. It is the work, and not those who do it, which should be made most prominent.

If there are conditions and needs which are problems, send those in the news given. Others may have solved the problems which are troubling you.

*The magazine invites wider correspondence with local circles and associations. Send us reports of what you are doing. It will be helpful to others.*

#### Rural Parent-Teacher Associations

THE CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is especially interested in making rural conditions better through improvement in schools, in surroundings of schools and towns, decorations in the schools, establishing libraries, conserving health, and improving sanitary conditions. All this may be accomplished through the work of a well-organized, active parent-teacher association. There are many which are doing valuable work and an account of what they have accomplished is an inspiration and help to those just beginning the work.

*The Child-Welfare Magazine requests all parent-teacher associations which have done something of real value to send an account of it to the Magazine for publication.*

## MOTHERS' CIRCLES AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

### CALIFORNIA

The Executive Board of the Congress of Mothers met in Oakland, with Mrs. Herbert N. Rowell, president. Mrs. George Wale, San Francisco clubwoman, was appointed chairman of legislation.

California is one of the states where women have voted for more than two years, and the Women's Legislative Council of California is a direct outcome of this new relation to civic matters. At a recent session of this body held in October there were delegates present from many sections of the State, twelve being present from the California Congress of Mothers, among them being Mrs. H. N. Rowell, President; Mrs. W. H. Marston, 2d Vice-President, and Mrs. George Wale, State Chairman of Legislation. This body is standing sponsor for a model birth registration law, and in the ten minutes allotted to them before the Council the merits of the proposed measure were given a presentation by the three ladies. They were delighted to find other delegates representing the federated

club-women as keen as they were as to its fundamental worth, and confidently believe that when the Council makes its final decision upon five measures which it will work for this winter at the State Capitol, their measure will be chosen. The pro-ponents of this bill recognize that "the business of being a baby is an extra-hazardous occupation," and that the annual loss by death of 300,000 infants in this country shows a great economic waste, and the need for humanitarian measures such as many states already have set in motion are imperative. Between the cradle and the grave an authentic certificate of birth may insure to a child its right to an education and reduce the ranks of those now enmeshed in the toils of child labor. The relations between wards and guardians rest upon the provision of this law and also the "age of consent" among girls. In California a girl is now legally protected until eighteen. The passage of a model bill and its enforcement are matters of great importance.

### COLORADO

The Denver District of the Colorado Congress has begun a movement which promises to be one of the most educative yet made by that body. There will be two extension courses conducted by the Congress. One will be given by the Denver University and the other by the Colorado State University.

The following are the programs:

Sociology—by the State University.

1. The Family, the Primal Social Group.
2. The Biological Aspect of the Family.
3. Child Psychology.
4. The Growing Boy.
5. The Growing Girl.
6. Housing the Family.
7. Home Sanitation.
8. Tuberculosis and the Home.
9. The Family Budget.
10. Charitable Work in the Homes of the Poor.
11. The Family and Other Educational Agencies.
12. Marriage and Divorce.

Psychology—by University of Denver.

1. The Mother as the First and Best Teacher.
2. Home Neglect of the Value of Play.
3. Education Before the Sixth Year.
4. Home as a Social and Spiritual Center.
5. What only the Home Can do Well.
6. Parents' Inadequate Knowledge of their own Children.
7. The Negative Atmosphere of the Home.
8. Education by Home Conversation.
9. How to Produce Parents Capable of Home Education.
10. Practical Things that can be done in the Home.

Each of these courses will be given to any one, who cares to embrace the opportunity, for one dollar. The object of this is to spread the gospel of efficient parenthood into as many homes as possible. Already, proof of the excellence of the plan is being demonstrated by the questions asked and answered after the lectures. Representation from each school district is required in order that the problems of each section of the city may be studied and, if possible, solved.

The Better Babies movement is progressing beyond all expectations. Each Parent and Teachers Association conducts a competition at least once during the year. It is gratifying to see the interest these contests have awakened, everywhere. There are no prizes offered. Mothers bring their children to be examined, weighed and measured simply to be able to be taught how to improve them physically. Some circles have asked for a second contest in order to bring more babies and to see how much progress has been made

since first examinations. All competitions are accompanied by a lecture upon the subject, by Dr. Bolles, Chairman of the Hygiene Committee.

The following is the Lecture Course for the Year given by the Denver District.

*October.*—Lecture: Music in the Home.

*November.*—A Practical Talk upon Efficiency in the Home.

*December.*—Address: The Restfulness of Reading.

*January.*—New Year's Party at Metropole Hotel. Subject for the Day—"Home Festivals."

*February.*—Address: Our Own Fireside.

*March.*—Address: The Responsibilities of Home Education.

*April.*—Address: Parenthood.

*May.*—The Latch String—Address.

The State Congress is already, preparing, its program for the State Convention in December. One of the special features will be a Child Welfare Exhibit conducted jointly by the Congress and the State Teachers Convention, which meet at the same time in Denver.

Mrs. Fred Dick, the State President, made a successful trip through the northern part of the State organizing several Parent and Teachers Associations. One of the Co-operative Rural Neighborhoods grasped eagerly the opportunity of bringing parents and teachers from the several districts together for mutual benefit. Reports from all portions of the State show an active awakening of all circles for the year and we hope soon to bring in glowing accounts of their work.

### GEORGIA

Macon will have the next convention of the Georgia branch of the National Congress of Mothers.

The Executive Board met in October. All were gratified with the growth of organizations and the good work being done.

A parent-teacher association has been formed at Bowman by Mrs. Howard Payne, State President, and Mrs. S. S. Brewes, Vice-president of the eighth district.

The combined parent-teacher associations of Brunswick will have charge of the Better Babies work in that town.

Mrs. H. L. Moor, second district vice-president, has organized parent-teacher associations in Moultrie, which have fitted up a department of domestic science.

In the Calhoun school at Atlanta, the principal secured the use of vacant lots adjoining the school and the seventh grade pupils will use and beautify them in the afternoons under the supervision of a teacher.

## ILLINOIS

The Child-Welfare League of Peoria held their Autumn Conference, October 29, with the general topic of "Training for Citizenship." Miss Minnie Whitham, one of the State Vice-Presidents, and Superintendent Smith of the Peoria Schools, spoke from the standpoint of the schools, and Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, President of the Illinois Branch, from the standpoint of the home. In the evening Professor Allan Hoben, of the University of Chicago, spoke from the standpoint of the state. A very large number of teachers were present at the Conference.

The first meeting of the Council of Parent-Teacher Associations of Chicago and Vicinity was held November 17. The topic for discussion was The Vocational Education Bill in the Unit System. This Council, though only in its third year, proves of increasing value to our Congress work in Illinois.

Our Legislative Committee is at work preparing a bill providing for the establishment of free kindergartens as a part of the regular public school system; this is based upon the excellent one prepared by the Congress in California and passed in 1913.

We have not attempted as yet to do any independent work for the war sufferers, but have worked with the *Chicago Record-Herald* in preparing gifts for the Christmas Ship, because that work was already established before the message came from the National Congress Committee. Unhappily, the sufferers' needs cannot be supplied by the Christmas Ship, however, and there will be abundant opportunity for relief work after Christmas.

Our organization work is progressing satisfactorily under the Extension Department, of which Mrs. Oreville T. Bright is the head. Her efforts just now are being especially directed toward the southern part of the state.

If any worker in the Congress is ever tempted to be discouraged, let her read this that a poor, family-supporting seamstress said to one of our Parent-Teacher Presidents recently, as the tears rolled down her cheeks: "Oh, if you only knew how that Association has changed my whole life! I thought I was just a down-and-out, and would never know any one who was nice or go anywhere except to work. But I went once because you asked me to, and now I wouldn't miss a meeting for any thing if I can help it. Everyone is so nice to me and I feel as if I could just hold up my head too, because my children are worth just as much in school as anyone's. And I've learned how to raise

my children better, too, and most of all, I've learned how to talk to them when they ask me questions about themselves; I never used to know. It's all from that blessed Association." After all, the work does pay, doesn't it?

## INDIANA

*Indiana State Convention Week of February 22. Date of State Wide Child's Welfare Exhibit. Best efforts of State organizations being put forth to make this exhibit so fine as to insure it a permanent place in State affairs. Work in La Fayette District.*

It was the unanimous decision of the members present at the October board meeting of the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers Association that to further the best interest of the State organization would be to postpone the date of the annual convention until the week of the proposed Child Welfare Exhibit under the auspices of the leading men and women of Indianapolis, cooperating with the State organizations directly interested—The Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers Associations and Federations of Woman's Clubs.

The initiative of this movement was first taken by the State Fire Chief, The Board of Health, The Board of Public Instruction and Children's Aid Association. It is the aim of all concerned to make this exhibit permanent. At the board meeting, November 17, at the Y. W. C. A. building, plans for the February State Annual Meeting were perfected and because of the deferred date it will be possible to present a better program.

Within the last month in district No. 5, Mrs. Charles Shulds, chairman, three new Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers clubs have been successfully organized at Cayuga, Stilesville and North Indianapolis.

As one of the charter organizations in the newly formed Woman's Legislative Council of Indiana the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers Association will be able to keep in touch with whatever needed reforms may come before the next session of the Indiana Legislature.

## LA FAYETTE DISTRICT

I thought it might interest our great National Congress of Mothers to hear from one of the "wee ones" of her household. Therefore I submit this district report for her inspection. . . . The La Fayette district, with nine counties for its field and Tippecanoe County for its center, has made great strides in extension work for the Indiana Branch this year. First, there was knowledge to disseminate as to the *why* of the movement. Second, there was suspicion to allay, and



prejudice to overcome in heads of schools as to probable criticisms, or dictatorial attitude toward existing conditions of schools. Third, parents to be awakened from lethargic conditions, and shown their share of responsibility in training children. But the stone walls have been surmounted, and in the two years of our work we have seen a wonderful growth of sentiment. . . . The doors of opportunity have opened so fast in all these counties that I have been unable to give personal response to all the calls but have aided by letter and literature, and kept watchful care over the new organizations in this way until I could give them a personal visit. I have been enabled to secure in some of the counties a chairman who looks after the organization of her county and reports to me, or asks for aid when needed. I will feel my district well organized when I can secure a tactful, wise woman for such work in each county. These officers constitute the Executive Board of the district, and meet in business session at call of district chairman. . . . We have held one very successful district convention in La Fayette and are arranging for the second one to be held at Attica in the spring of 1915. Our delegates and workers expressed themselves as receiving more benefit from this convention than from our State Meeting. The reason is apparent—a smaller field and practical problems could be discussed. . . . Shall I tell you of some of the open doors through which we entered? County superintendents of schools are asking us to establish Parent-Teacher Associations in their schools. The Parent-Teacher Club at Chalmers in White County has a regular place on the Teacher's Institute program. The program committee for Farmer's Institute which met recently at our Purdue University to make out their annual program, asked for information on their work for young people in rural districts. I placed in their hands several numbers of our Child-Welfare Magazine which they said gave them what they desired. . . . Our clubs are working along civic, social, and home educational lines. They have established circulating libraries in towns that had none. They have influenced school boards as to equipment and sanitary conditions of school buildings. Have seen to the enforcement of law as regards cigarette smoking by minors. Have supplied the Public Library in La Fayette—the only city in our district—with an annual subscription to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, and are asking for a reading room and story hour for little children in this same library. Are impressing on parents the wisdom of simpler dress for school children, and the responsi-

bility of the home in solving the problem of the social evil—and all other evils threatening childhood and youth. All along the line we are working with *home* for the basis—an awakened parenthood in the perspective, unity of interest between home and school, and better conditions for childhood in our midst, and everywhere. . . . In the La Fayette district we are making especial emphasis for loyalty to our National Congress and Indiana Branch, and a more complete affiliation with both. With organizations in all of our nine counties, and a membership last spring—which has constantly increased since—of more than a thousand members, we feel much encouraged in this corner of our Indiana work.

MRS. W. O. CROUSE,  
*Chairman La Fayette District*

### MASSACHUSETTS

The oldest Club in Worcester for Child Study, every member well fitted and anxious to be of service to the National Congress.

The Worcester Mothers' Child Study Circle is limited to eighteen members.

The eighteen active members of the Mothers' Child Study Circle are very glad to send a message of loyalty to and co-operation with the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. We are grateful to the Congress for help and inspiration received from it in their conventions and their literature.

The Circle has purchased the splendid set of Books "Parents and Their Problems" and have made out their yearly prospectus from the Program sent with the books. I wish every club and every individual could read these helpful and fascinating works on home-making and the building of character.

This last year Mrs. Barker, the Kindergarten Director, formed the connecting link between the Mothers' Child Study Circle and the schools. In the kindness of her heart she took time out of her busy life to visit our Circle and tell us of some of the material needs of some children in the kindergartens, to which the Circle was glad to respond in some slight measure. Perhaps the minds of the little ones may work clearer and better if they are more comfortable physically. In reading the "Making of a Life" in Vol. 5 of "Parents and Their Problems" I came across these sentences with which I will close: "Would any man be wise, let him think hard; Would he be strong, let him work; Would he be happy, let him serve and sacrifice."

The Mothers' Child Study Circle wish to

help and be helped by the Congress in teaching their children and others, the truths and principles stated in that quotation.

MRS. CHAS. T. HAVEN,  
*President*

#### ORANGE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Orange Parent-Teacher Association was started in May, 1913.

Aside from the regular meetings the first thing accomplished was a protest to the town authorities in regard to the character of a carnival being held in the town. Nothing was done about it at the time but the body of men were more careful thereafter as to the character of entertainment provided by the town.

In preparation for child welfare day the ministers were approached and they all responded by giving some very helpful sermons.

During the skating season there was much danger from daring boys skating on thin ice where the current in the river became more swift. By our recommendation the selectmen agreed to stretch a rope across the river and station an officer there to see that the boys did not go beyond it.

Miss Elizabeth White of Boston, Secretary of the Anti-Cigarette League, was secured as a speaker and she addressed a union meeting of all the churches on a Sunday evening. She hoped to establish a clinic and effect the cure of a great many boys; but some boys objected and where the boys were willing the mothers objected, which fact shows that there is much work for the Parent-Teacher Association to do. We also co-operated with the other clubs in town to secure a district nurse. She began her work last June. We hope soon to hold a health exhibit at which time the nurse is to talk to the mothers.

During Old Home Week in June the Parent-Teacher Association took charge of a babies' parade which was very successful.

One of our members, Mrs. Cardall, prepared a paper during the winter on the aims of the Association and read it before the Philomath Club and also spoke at Greenfield.

We are making a big effort this year to get the teacher and parents acquainted. We held a reception to the teachers on October 13, at which nearly every teacher was present. The superintendent of the schools, Mr. Wesley Nims, is working with us.

We also hope to reach the foreign families in town.

MRS. ELIZABETH P. STULTS,  
*President*

#### MISSOURI

Organizations of Parents are being formed in every section of the State.

State and County School Superintendents are enthusiasts on Parent-Teacher Organizations.

Missouri has 4,000 members. Will you help make it 10,000?

At first this seemed a big undertaking, but with 4,000 wide-awake hustling members, and State and County Superintendents praising the work accomplished and assisting in every way in the formation of new Parent-Teacher Associations, we are inclined to believe as one enthusiastic member remarked, "only a little while until Missouri will have to set the figures higher."

About fifteen new circles were organized in the State in October, each representing from 10 to 100 members.

#### ASH GROVE

One of the newest and busiest Parent-Teacher Associations is reported from Ash Grove, with a membership of 91 at present; they hope to have 100 by the next meeting.

The members voted to establish a free "Baby Clinic," where mothers may take their babies and have them examined by competent physicians, having their mental and physical efficiency graded according to scientific standards.

Directions are given on how to overcome any deficiency or disorder, as well as best methods of feeding and clothing.

That this work will help to materially decrease the death rate among babies, raise the standard of health and promote a general movement for better babies in the community, there is no doubt.

In addition to the establishment of a Free Clinic, a two days' Better Babies Health Contest will be held in December, and committees are busy getting registration and score-cards ready in anticipation of a big event.

#### MAPLEWOOD REPORT

During the summer months the Maplewood Parent-Teacher Coöperative Association made the hearts of about fifty twelve-year old boys glad by providing them the most interesting and entertaining employment in the school garden where work was play and play was work. Next year the plan is to have the same kind of a garden for the girls, and they expect to be instrumental in beautifying every corner and vacant lot in Maplewood in 1915.

"Cleaning up" not only vacant lots but the picture shows has been part of their work.

The past few months the motion picture shows were under their supervision each Friday night, and the proceeds were generously contributed to the association.

#### ST. LOUIS COUNTY

The Old Orchard, Harrison School, Overland Park, Tuxedo and Lincoln Parent-Teacher Associations have started their year's work with bazaars, sewing bees and teas, in order that they may be able to help their schools financially as well as socially and morally.

The Tuxedo Circle recently purchased the necessary equipment for the school playground and gymnasium.

The Lincoln School Parent-Teacher Association, the newest organization in St. Louis County, have a most prospective future, as their members are alert to the opportunities for service. They are receiving the congratulations of their friends and the community at large for showing such good results in so short a time. The new sidewalk to the school will be a joy to the children and a comfort to the mothers for many years to come, and the Girls' Club for children between the ages of ten and twelve years where they will be taught domestic science, is their latest activity.

Domestic science is not taught in the school, so the mothers have taken up the training in a thoroughly scientific manner, and meet with the girls and a teacher twice each month, and it's strange, but true, the mothers always go to "take" Mary or Jane, though the same child goes to school each day unattended.

Of course the mother hears the lecture and watches her own daughter demonstrate in the cooking department, while in the sewing department she is permitted to assist.

The Harrison School Mothers' Circle will give their annual bazaar in December. These bazaars not only afford much pleasure for all interested but keep the treasury of this organization in good condition, and sidewalks, maps, books, chairs, emergency cabinet and many other necessities are paid for with money raised in this way.

#### ST. LOUIS

The Horace Mann, Sherman and Dozier School Parent-Teacher Associations have each held receptions for the new teachers which afforded the opportunity for the mothers to get acquainted with them.

Such good work and good-fellowship is inspiring the people of other school districts to organize Parent-Teacher Associations.

The Sorority Circle has been extremely active, and two cottages at Eureka, Mo., where children from the tenement districts of St. Louis are sent for a few weeks vacation or outing during the summer, are the result of their efforts. Each cottage will accommodate fourteen children and both were built and furnished by this energetic circle.

More than one hundred children were entertained in these two cottages in June, July and August.

Aside from this, much social service work is being done in St. Louis by the members of the Sorority Circle.

This fall they have contributed generously to the needy of the Special Schools of St. Louis, where children not only poor financially, but physically, and oftentimes mentally, are taught.

This latest activity is under the direction of the school supervisor, as the danger of pauperizing, by giving indiscriminately, is fully realized.

#### NEW ORGANIZATIONS IN MISSOURI NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Overland Park Parent-Teacher Association, St. Louis County, 28 members.

Unionville Mothers' Club, St. Louis County, 50 members.

Crane Mothers' Circle, Crane, Mo., 25 members.

Willard Parent-Teacher Association, Willard, Mo., 23 members.

Greenwood School Parent-Teacher Association, Springfield, 48 members.

Shady Dell Parent-Teacher Association, Greene Co., 19 members.

Winton Parent-Teacher Association, Winton, strong organization.

Broadway School Parent-Teacher Association, Sedalia. This is the largest school in Sedalia and will no doubt be one of the strongest organizations in the State.

Buckner School Parent-Teacher Association, Buckner, 35 members.

Plattsburg Parent-Teacher Association, Plattsburg, 28 members.

Gibson Mothers' Circle, St. Louis, Mo., 36 members.

Emerson School Parent-Teacher Association, St. Louis, 38 members.

Cassville Mothers' Circle, Cassville, 30 members.

Tift School Parent-Teacher Association, Springfield, 16 members.

Lee School Parent-Teacher Association, Columbia.

Sunshine Parent-Teacher Association, Greene Co., 10 members.

## MONTANA

**Mrs. Robert H. Tate, National Vice-President, Organizes Parents in Montana Towns—School Superintendents Coöperate in many Ways—The National Officers will Hold Conference for State Organization, May, 1915.**

There has been a great awakening in Montana and enthusiastic response to the presentation of the Child Welfare work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations by Mrs. Robert N. Tate, of Portland, Oregon, National Vice-President, who has during October visited Butte, Anaconda, Billings, Great Falls, Helena and Missoula. In every city the superintendent of schools had arranged the meetings. In Butte High School the first Parent-Teacher Association in Butte was organized with Mrs. John A. Smith, 623 Diamond St., as president. Supt. Downing opened the meeting, recommending the work of the Mothers' Congress to every mother and teacher. Plans were made to organize a Parent-Teacher Association in each of the fifteen schools of Butte. Principals of schools, members of the School Board and mothers participated in the conference of workers.

In Helena the largest number of parents were in attendance. Supt. Diedrich was quite overwhelmed when 250 mothers responded to the invitation he had given.

The principal from each school in Helena selected two mothers from her school to form a working committee to organize Parent-Teacher Associations in every school in Helena. Nearly 100 members are on the working committee and it is anticipated that 1,000 parents will be numbered in the Parent-Teacher Associations in Helena.

School Supt. Dwyer arranged a meeting in the High School at Anaconda, when the teachers coöperated in the plan to establish Parent-Teacher Associations. Those present voted to organize in the High School and join the Congress. They also planned to organize in the other schools, all of which were represented by delegates. Mrs. W. E. Gaily, 302 West 3d St., was chosen as president.

Great Falls was one of the last cities visited by Mrs. Tate. Supt. Sargent arranged for the appointment of a committee from each school to coöperate in organizing circles of parents. Enthusiasm of parents and teachers gives promise of a large membership in Great Falls.

Billings, owing to lack of previous preparation, had the smallest meeting of any Montana town. Many teachers expressed a desire to have the Parent-Teacher Associations.

A conference will be held in Helena by the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations in May, when all who are interested in the organization of the Montana Branch of the Congress will be invited to attend.

## NEW JERSEY

By invitation of the Atlantic City Branch of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, the fourteenth Annual Meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenues, Atlantic City, N. J., on Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. The mornings were devoted to reports of officers, committees, and clubs, and the business of the organization. The general topic of the conference was "Growth,—Mental, Moral and Physical, as applied to the Parent and Teacher in their attitude toward the Child." The thought for this convention was suggested by a statement made by Mr. Heberling, of the Carter Jr. Republic, at the International Meeting four years ago, when he said: "There are more incorrigible parents than children," and the object of the sessions was to realize the need of growth to meet the times in all those who are working with and for children. Dr. Walter S. Cornell, of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and Charities, and Dr. Clara Bartlett, Medical Inspector of Public Schools, Atlantic City, spoke of the new ideals and standards in physical development and their relation to mental and moral conditions. Mrs. John Meigs, of the Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., gave an address on "Laws of Moral Growth"; Dr. Francis Burke Brandt, Principal of the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy, on Mental Growth, and Dr. W. H. S. Demarest, President of Rutgers College, on "The High Calling of Parents and Teachers."

On Saturday afternoon a summary was made of the general topic at a Round Table conference conducted by Dr. Franklin K. Mathiews, when addresses by Dr. Mathiews and J. Henry Bartlett, of Philadelphia, were followed by discussion.

Officers, delegates and Individual Members of the State Congress were entertained.

## NEW YORK

With delegates present from at least forty-two cities and towns of New York State, the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of The Mothers' Assembly opened at the Stadler Hotel in Buffalo for a four days' session, October 13.

Mrs. Henry Osgood Holland, of Buffalo, President, presided. Invocation by Dr.



R. V. V. Raymond, of Buffalo. Addresses of Welcome by Hon. Louis P. Fuhrman, Mayor of Buffalo, also Henry B. Saunder, for the Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Henry P. Emersen, Commissioner of Education, Mrs. Edgar Winters, for the Mothers' Club of Buffalo, and the Response by Mrs. Henry Osgood Holland, who also introduced the first speaker of the evening, Charles F. Thwing, LL.D., President of Western Reserve University, subject "Higher Education."

Dr. Thwing emphasized the fact that this is a critical time in the world's history, it called for the best in womanhood and manhood. For the next one hundred years the women and men of America will have the heavy responsibility of helping make up to the world the many-sided losses represented in the battlefields of France, Germany, Belgium and Austria. America with her banks has helped to keep the world afloat. Let her not fall behind in the choice womanhood and strong manhood without which the world will be in dire straits during the coming generations. If America fails, humanity fails. Dr. Thwing gives *three* results of higher education, first sound judgment, second proper union of intellect and emotions, third that it helps one to find one's self. In our wills and intellects we must all be born again. We all know women and men who have never found themselves. We have seen people of mature years with skittish brains and we have felt for them a pitiful contempt. Last of all, higher education will give your sons and daughters an experienced mind. Shakespeare was not a doctor, a lawyer or a soldier, although he wrote with knowledge of all these professions. But he had a mind which could experience all sides of life. As for poverty, that should never prevent intellectual training. Among the best students in Western Reserve University are those girls and boys who are earning their own living. Poverty will never be a drawback to a young man or woman whose heart is pure, whose intellect is responsive and whose character is sound. An address was given on "Training the Child for Peace," by Mrs. Anna Sturgess Duryea, who urged parents to teach boys *peace* through friendship and coöperation.

"Social Life of the High-School Student" was the subject of an address by Dr. Susan Chase.

An address on "The Value to the Child of Kindergarten Training," by Mrs. A. M. Hughes, National Kindergarten Association, was much enjoyed. Mrs. Hughes said in part: "Kindergarten training teaches the child concentration. Keeps him from being

self-centered. Makes him realize he is only one of many."

"Self Control" was the topic discussed by Mr. J. George Becht, Executive Secretary of the State Board of Education of Pennsylvania.

In the address on "The Child's Religious Training," by Mr. William R. Heath, he said: "We do not need to teach the child God and we do not need to train God into the child. He is there."

There is no true religious training without true religious living.

### NORTH DAKOTA

State Organizer of North Dakota, Mrs. Acher, of Valley City, has done much to interest fathers and mothers in forming Parent-Teacher Associations for the study of child nurture and home making. In this she has had the assistance of her husband, Dr. Acher, of the State Normal School.

To give even greater impetus to the movement in this State, Mrs. Robert H. Tate, National Vice-President, in October visited many of the principal towns.

In Bismarck, the capitol, state, county and city superintendents, many teachers and parents made up a large audience. The Bismarck Parent-Teacher Association was organized with Mrs. M. W. Neff as president and a charter membership of eighty.

Jamestown with 900 pupils enrolled in the school was visited and the teachers became interested in promoting organizations of parents.

### OREGON

**Oregon Congress of Mothers, Parent-Teacher Association, Helps Parents at State Fair.**

At the State Fair the Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association had a large booth. The Fair Committee contributed \$100 toward the expenses.

Help was given to parents from all parts of the State.

A life-sized baby doll was dressed and undressed hundreds of times, showing the modern way of dressing and caring for a child. Parents were shown how to care for milk and the milk bottle. Literature was given out showing proper diet for children at different ages, milk that is pure, objects of the Parent's Educational Bureau, hints to mothers, prenatal care, etc., while thousands of leaflets were distributed.

It was a source of pride that none were discarded. Eight women were in charge of the work, and watched for discarded literature, because the grounds were strewn with other printed material.

Of course the Child-Welfare Magazine committee was present and taking subscriptions and showing the need of the magazine in the home.

On a table were menus for school lunches.

These lunches are suggested for their nutritive value. Each lunch costs  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents and can be served for 5 cents.

Eight programs were given in the Education Auditorium on The Rural Child, Games in the Home and School, The Montessori Method, Juvenile Courts, and Child Welfare Commission of Oregon. While some of the audiences were small the effort paid. Two of the larger audiences numbered 500, who stayed for an hour or more, and many of the audience afterward visited the booth and asked questions on the subject. We are so well satisfied with results, and written inquiries following the work, that we suggest that all states who have not tried being represented at the State Fair do so. If what we have learned by experience will be helpful, address 551 Court House, Portland, Oregon, and we will always be glad to send such help, and send samples of literature.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

The fifteenth Annual meeting held in Lancaster, October 28-30, again proved the value of conference and coöperation as a spur to renewal of effort. The program very rightly dealt with the conservation of the family.

The membership has increased more than 700 in the last year. There are now more than 130 associations in the State.

The hospitality of the Lancaster clubs and Parent-Teacher Association was marked. The Iris Club, with a membership of two hundred women, tendered a reception at their clubhouse. This was also the scene of the reception given by the local Parent-Teacher Associations; and a third enjoyable tea was given by the Suffrage Club at their attractive headquarters.

Delegates came from Coatesville, Swarthmore, Wilkesbarre, Pittsburgh, Lansdowne, Mechanicsburg, Gettysburg, Allentown, Erie, Lebanon, Montoursville, Lehigh, Reading and Philadelphia. There were fifteen members of the Philadelphia Mothers' Club in attendance. This club is engaged in all manner of educative and social service work and its organization antedates that of the State Congress. The delegates from Reading brought invitation to the Congress to meet next year in Reading. This matter will be decided in future executive session of the Board.

The reports from the associations each held

a special value and will be given from time to time throughout the year in the State news.

The press of Lancaster was generous, or rather by the space devoted to reporting the meeting showed a recognition of the value of this service the Mothers are giving to the country by their wider work for all children. Mrs. Albert M. Herr as chairman of the Lancaster press committee proves the wise choice of those appointing her. Mrs. H. W. Bernard, president of the Lancaster association, and her active local committee in addition to the usual comforts provided, arranged an automobile tour through historic Lancaster for the visiting women. Holding the family as the unit of society the program was arranged to cover suggestions for strengthening and maintaining the family life. Saving the Babies was described by Mrs. Charles P. Mercer. Holding the family together was the theme of Mrs. Charles Gilpin, Jr., who outlined the actual operation of the Mothers Assistance Fund in Philadelphia County, showing how great the need for larger appropriation to meet the worthy demand. But ten per cent. of the applicants so far have received assistance, yet each case is entirely worthy. Mrs. W. Arch. McClean of Gettysburg explained how the operation of the Mothers' pension law had been secured in Adams County.

What the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia is doing for the school children of the State was told by Mr. Wilfred H. Schoff, Secretary, in an illustrated address. The museum furnishes valuable cabinet specimens, stereopticon, screen and slides to Pennsylvania schools.

Mrs. Anna Windle Paiste, a graduate of the Montessori School in Rome, in describing the intent of this system of teaching, told of the tenement apartment houses in Rome where the perfectly equipped and sanitary houses each has a school, a physician and play space. The teacher and the physician are paid for by the proprietor, as an economic feature in proper upbringing.

Miss Alice Parker, Supervisor of Pittsburgh Kindergartens, made a comprehensive address on "Training In Morals," emphasizing the importance of early training and environment, together with an understanding of the child, his tendency to imitate and reflect and his imagination cultivated as a strong element in mental growth. Mrs. Winifred Sackville Stoner of Pittsburgh, Mrs. William F. Young of Chicago, Miss Mary S. Garrett, Mrs. Milton Higgins of Worcester, and Mrs. Schoff each made valuable addresses.

"Teaching Peace in the Home" was the subject Dr. O. F. Janney, of Baltimore,

discussed, reminding the audience that public opinion was the foundation of government and that ordinarily public opinion keeps the peace in communities. Religion must be taught in the home as a peace foundation and true patriotism must be of peace and not of war and must extend beyond one's own country.

The resolutions adopted called for the custodial care of all feeble minded women of childbearing age; for the prohibition of everything in child labor that is injurious to the child; for standardization of probation by the employment of properly qualified probation officers; and for the establishment of a public kindergarten where twenty-five people so request. Never to relax effort till each child has his birthright reaffirmed as a principle and endeavor of the Congress of Mothers.

### RHODE ISLAND

Mrs. Dwight K. Bartlett, State President, was a speaker at the Teachers' State Institute in Providence on "What Parent-Teacher Associations Have Done and Can Do for the Schools." At the Executive Board meeting the truant officer reported that many children are absent from school through lack of proper clothing. The Congress has offered help in providing for such children, which help has been gladly accepted.

Each club was asked to collect garments, see that they are properly mended and forward them to Mrs. Bartlett, to be distributed with the coöperation of the Society for Organizing Charity. Miss O'Neil of the above society heartily endorsed this work and paid tribute to the methods employed by the congress. She also suggested that each club select some family for its especial charge, teaching the mother how to improve her home and in other ways help in raising the standard of family life. The needs of the feeble minded were brought out strongly by Miss Sweeney and a plea made for more schools. Resolutions were passed to request the State Board to enlarge the State school at Exeter, also to ask the school committee of this city for a school for cripples.

Mrs. George W. Friend, for the programme committee, gave a list of speakers obtainable for the clubs. Mrs. James A. Kinghorn spoke for the work at the Juvenile Court and advised the enlargement of the committee so that more frequent visits might be made.

Mrs. Frederick N. Brown spoke for the music committee and Mrs. Jay Perkins for the membership committee. Each gave helpful suggestions and items of interest.

About forty women attended the Presi-

dent's Council of the R. I. Congress of Mothers. The congress will assist in providing children who are kept out of school from lack of clothes. The presidents were urged to visit the juvenile session of the Sixth District Court and to inform their clubs on modern methods of reform in dealing with juveniles. A note from Senator Beeckman was read, in which he stated that he expects to have a bill for the establishment of juvenile courts in the State of Rhode Island at the opening of the next session of the Legislature. The President, Mrs. Bartlett, gave a brief review of the Lever bill, which appropriates \$10,000 for each State for the teaching of agriculture, home economics, stating that probably this was the first time home economics had appeared in Federal legislation. Letters to the Secretary of Agriculture and the President of the State Agricultural College were signed by the women present, urging that this appropriation be evenly divided so that in addition to the assistance given specifically to agriculture, the home and the home maker will receive equal recognition.

Announcement was made of the lecture by Miss Keller, under the auspices of the congress. Miss Keller was brought here by the congress, not as a money-making scheme, but in order that the community might have the benefit of hearing about, and seeing one of the most wonderful accomplishments of the age.

The presidents were urged to devote one of their programmes to the subject of peace. As mothers, they should enter their protest against this war. A committee was appointed to look into the matter of publishing, selling a stamp to be used on letters and packages expressing disapproval of this war and belief in international disarmament and arbitration, the proceeds to go to the Red Cross work. Mrs. W. O. Evans was made chairman of this committee. Miss Alice W. Hunt urged the presidents to instruct their members not to shop after six o'clock and an earnest plea was made for a campaign of education along this line.

Notice was given of the coming teachers' institute and members of the congress were urged to attend. Mrs. Bartlett stated that good work mothers' clubs and parent-teacher associations were doing is evidenced by the fact that the congress has been recognized on the institute programme, Mrs. Bartlett being invited to speak on "What Parent-Teacher Associations Have Done and Can Do for the Schools."

Mrs. William Heath gave an outline of the free baby consultation work the congress is doing in the State and urged the presidents to appoint in their individual clubs a Chair-

man of child Hygiene, who would coöperate with her in the work.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Rhode Island Congress of Mothers, the larger Providence department stores will begin the placing of peace seals upon each parcel sent out to customers. Shoppers will also be urged to procure the stamps for their private use.

#### TENNESSEE

It is exceedingly gratifying to note the forward movement manifested in Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers work in Tennessee.

Our State President, Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, reports several new organizations and additions to the State Congress. Among the places recently visited were Donelson and College Grove, and splendid results are assured. Mrs. Crutcher has accepted invitations to visit Winchester, Paris, Lawrenceburg, Clarksville and Huntland at an early date.

#### TEXAS

The Mothers' Congress of Texas has recently been offered a page in the monthly edition of the *Texas School Journal*. This will greatly promote extension work and education of school men in the work of the Congress. In addition to this, the State Teachers' Association of Texas has invited the president of the Texas Branch to speak on the general programme and to hold a sectional meeting each year in connection with the annual meeting of the State Teacher's Association.

The coöperation between the different organizations in Texas and the Mothers' Congress is steadily increasing. Twelve new clubs have recently been received into the Congress.

#### VERMONT

Bennington has 228 members of the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. The work is well established. Reluctance, criticism and hesitation has given place to acceptance of the movement as one to be expected and adopted. The High School in Rutland has a larger entering class, better morals, manners and scholarship than for many years. An educator attributes this to the coöperation and work of the Parent-Teacher Associations in the graded schools. The results of three years' work have made themselves felt. Supt. Chittenden of Burlington has done wonderful work. Five Parent-Teacher Associations have been organized in Burlington schools.

The annual convention of the Vermont Branch was held in Burlington, November 12-13.

#### WASHINGTON

Thurston, King and Kitsap Counties have country branches of the Congress.

Lewis and Pierce Counties are organizing this fall.

#### WISCONSIN

The work of the seven Parent-Teacher Associations of Kenosha is progressing finely.

The work has been systematized and *harmonized*, if I may use the word, through a Central Council, which is composed of the presidents and vice-presidents of each association, the superintendent of schools and the president of the school board. Questions of general interest are referred from each association to the Council and at the monthly meeting we dispose of all our problems and receive from each other many helpful suggestions.

Each association has studied its own local needs and made its scope of work and program accordingly. In some localities there is more demand for the social than the instructional so that alternate afternoons are held, one with program and the other sewing, story telling, music and the like.

One association has looked into the sanitation of its building and by close coöperation with the school board secured entirely new toilet arrangements and provided screens for the entire building.

In one school in which there are many Italians, an afternoon was given to them, particularly, recently. An Italian speaker told them of the aims and purposes of the Parent-Teacher work. Many foreign mothers have been reached in this district.

In another school the crowded conditions were investigated and through a committee working with the school board the auditorium was made into suitable rooms and portable buildings were placed on the grounds. The program for the year of this school is mostly child hygiene with a Christmas party and a children's day for variation.

In connection with the High School Association there is an employment bureau which helps numerous boys and girls to continue with their school work. The bureau is composed of the principal, one teacher, one professional man, a mother and a business man. This committee keeps in close touch with the factories, business places and homes and a careful selection is made to fill the vacancies which come up. The High School association has an annual Parents' Day, giving the parents the opportunity of visiting classes and acquainting themselves with the work. Many parents have gone to school the entire day on Parents' Day and feel repaid for time spent.



One association is looking after the bodily needs of its school children. When a child is found improperly clad relief is found. As our CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE says: "Our aims are to surround childhood with that wise care . . . that will develop good citizens . . . and to carry the mother love into all that concerns childhood in Home, School, Church or Legislation."

During the month of September the seven Associations had a total attendance of 760. Is it worth while all our efforts in behalf of Congress work? If, in every town of 26,000 seven or eight hundred parents will have been inside the school buildings for an hour or two each month, we cannot help but feel that we have accomplished something toward closer relationship of Home and School.

### Selected Books for the Babies

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publisher</i>	<i>Illustrator</i>
Mother Goose.	Rutledge.	Kate Greenaway.
Mother Goose.	Century.	Kate Greenaway.
Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes Set to Music.	McLoughlin.	Elliott.
Picture-Books.	F. Warne.	Randolph Caldecott.
No. 2—		
The House that Jack Built.		
Sing a Song of Sixpence.		
The Queen of Hearts.		
No. 3—		
Hey Diddle Diddle.		
Baby Bunting.		
Ride a Cock Horse.		
The Milk Maid.		
A Frog That Would A Woo-ing Go.		
Walter Crane's Picture Books.	John Lane.	Walter Crane.
Goody Two Shoes Picture Book.	John Lane.	Walter Crane.
Cinderella's Picture Book.	John Lane.	Walter Crane.
Under the Window.	Rutledge.	Kate Greenaway.
The Farm Book.	Houghton Mifflin.	E. Boyd Smith.
The Tale of Peter Rabbit.	F. Warne.	Beatrix Potter.
Ten Little Bunnie Boys.	E. P. Dutton.	Ernest Nister.
The Toys and Games (untearable).	E. P. Dutton.	Ernest Nister.
Dean's Rag Books (Fast Colors).	Cupples & Leon.	
No. 129. The Farm (A book of tame animals).		
No. 75. An Animal Book.		
No. 105. The Garden.		
No. 62. Animals and their Little Ones.		

### The Christmas Tree Carol

Words and melody by Elise Traut.  
The accompaniment by Mrs. J. J. Andzulatis of New Britain.

Two hundred fifty thousand copies are now ready for distribution, of which twenty-five thousand copies have already been sent on request of the Torono Branch of the Santa Claus Association to its director to be distributed free of charge among the poor to cheer the hearts of the depressed and lonely.

After due consideration the Santa Claus Association of 347 Fifth Avenue, New York City, of which Mr. John D. Gluck is the founder, voted

to attach the word National to the Christmas Tree Carol. As such, and because of its appealing simplicity of text and melody it may be of interest and value to parents, makers of homes, teachers of schools, Sunday Schools, children's institutions, and particularly to children.

In introducing the carol to the public the hope is entertained that it may win the favor of children and adults and be sung with fervor by the masses when they gather around the public Christmas tree, which are growing in number and popularity from year to year in our country.

## The Effect of the Widows' Pension on Truancy and School Attendance

By HUGH C. KRUM

*Attendance Department, Portland, Ore.*

On February 10, 1913, the Widows' Pension Bill passed the Oregon State Legislature, and on June 3, 1913, became effective. The following conclusions are drawn after but one year of observation and experience with the working of this law:

In the State of Oregon, as in every other state in the Union, the problem of school attendance is a live one at all times. The effort to reduce non-attendance, irregular attendance, and truancy to a minimum is continuous. Any agency whereby assistance is given toward such an end is worthy of commendation. The Widows' Pension Bill is such an agency, and is a long step in the right direction.

Not all truants are children of widows, and children of widows are not all truants. The widowed mother is to be pitied in any case. More so, where poverty exists and she has a large family to support.

The causes of truancy and non-attendance are many—poverty is one. When the father dies, leaving a family of from one to a dozen children, under ordinary conditions poverty is sure to be felt. To be poor or in poverty is no disgrace. The disgrace comes with professional pauperism.

The widow who can keep her family together and raise them to maturity in a proper way, deserves more than a passing word of commendation. The State owes it to that woman to assist in every possible way.

Not so long ago the State stood ready to assist when the child went wrong, but not until then. We are beginning to realize that the salvation of our country exists in the removing of the cause of trouble instead of dealing with the effects. The widowed mother who is willing to remain at home with her children should have

the help of the State in providing for the welfare of her children in giving them the proper food, clothing, schooling, etc. Where a mother is anxious to remain in the home, and care for her children, few truants are found. From such a home, regular attendance at school and good behavior are usually guaranteed.

In contrast with these conditions we have at times the home where the widowed mother is entirely indifferent in regard to the essential things of life. It is from such a home that truants and troublesome pupils generally come. A hopeless, helpless, irresponsible mother is a mighty poor person to award a pension, the expenditure of which she would have in her own hands. Illustrative of such a condition is the case of Mrs. Blank.

On the local charity records for several years.

Family of seven children, ages from three to seventeen years.

Father dead two years.

When living he was shiftless and lazy.

Could not support the family but could manage to secure tobacco for his own use.

Mother a big, strong specimen of womanhood.

Rapidly becoming a professional pauper.

Has asked and secured assistance from practically every agency known.

Pension granted is thirty-seven dollars per month.

Children persistent truants from school.

School authorities have used every known method to secure attendance.

Mother claims that she cannot make the children go to school.

This mother left her home and entered the county hospital.

Claimed appendicitis as the cause. She gave no notice to the authorities. Children left in the home with no one to supervise.

All remained away from school.

Investigating officer on report of the school attendance department looked after the case and located the woman in the hospital, sitting in bed, reading a cheap novel and generally enjoying herself.

The children taken to the Detention Home of the Juvenile Court until the return of the mother.

Same condition after the return of the mother as before.

Five children in his family can be classed as persistent truants.

The pension in this case signally fails to remedy conditions.

It is my general belief that in a case of this kind the children should be taken from the parent and raised by the State or placed in homes by a home finding society. The mother should be required to work and give what help she could.

That such cases as the one just cited are not the rule is shown by the following record:

Widow with eleven children.

In dire poverty.

The oldest child fifteen years, the youngest two and one half years. Before the pension was granted, several of the children were persistent truants.

The oldest girl, fifteen years, was a non-attendant and in but the second grade of school, although of a normal mind.

Since granting of the pension, the home has been made considerably better.

The oldest girl is in school regularly, as are all the other children.

All complaints have ceased.

The home is clean.

The mother and children seem contented and happy.

That the Widows' Pension Law, when properly administered, is a success, there is no doubt. That school attendance is bettered by this law in the State of Oregon is true. The test of time will prove the full worth of such a law, but we are certain of its value after a year's trial in Oregon.

## **What One Mother Did for Children**

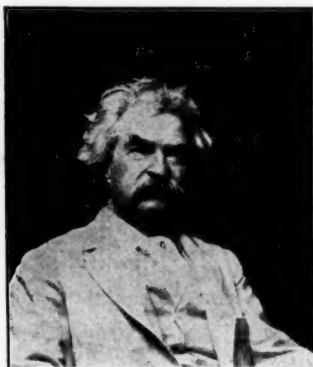
I GAVE up the flowers in my back yard, put up a gymnasium apparatus and enlarged my children's acquaintance to "whosoever will."

I have made their schoolmates welcome to play whenever they wished. The only time they are not welcome is Sundays and the occasions when I am out. My work is all arranged so that I can see and hear, and when misdemeanors occur I take the matter up with the child instead of the parent.

If you knew of the young boys and girls who roam about this vicinity, day after day, in absolute freedom, while their unthinking parents follow the dictates of their own fancy, my

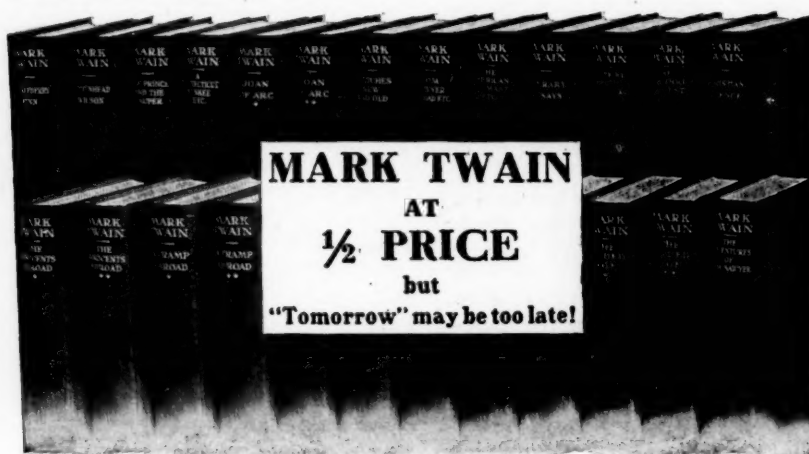
deep interest in the matter would seem a vital one to you I am sure. It is not because the parents are not intelligent (because this is the better residence section), but they do not realize that "idleness is the devil's workshop" and the wards of the juvenile court who reside in our neighborhood are the boys who had the most freedom. There is no playground in this end of the city and the people who do not believe in children are mighty and many!

I have relied solely on the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE to keep in touch with the work which is so beautiful and wonderful to me.



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